

here. The discussion centered around the grant process and that's what the amendment tries to put into place that the monies, in effect, basically are only used on a grant basis. Well when you go through the grant process and especially in this area, if you start with a base that is so far in excess of your competition you in effect have no competition and what you do is you basically say that there is no peer review process. When you look at the statistics that Senator Schimek gave us on the grants that have been awarded to the two institutions that we're talking about here, it's amazing, just absolutely amazing that Creighton has been able to garner the grants that they have when you look at the difference in terms of the bases that have been derived from these funds that should be used for cancer reasons. One of the reasons I have supported cancer, rather cigarette tax increases is because a portion of that continues to go for cancer research. The argument that we haven't had money to do other types of programming so we can't do this, if we weren't talking about such a serious thing it would almost be laughable. We don't have money to help the mentally retarded folks, we don't have money in some of the other examples that were given, so we can't, I guess in effect, have this money available for research. The issue here is research, whether it's done by a state institution, a government institution or a private institution should make very little matter once you get beyond I guess the biased, the preconceived notion that state or tax dollars, federal dollars should never to to "a private institution". I mean they go there all the time. Look at the example of the GI bill. Do you ever see a limitation on the GI bill as it relates to where those funds can be used? No. I can go to Loyola, I could go to Holy Cross, I could go to Creighton, I could go to any institution that I chose to. I could go to a state or government institution. Those monies flow all the time to private institutions. The grants at the federal level are not limited to only government institutions. This is another example where our parochial head is rising out of the sand and we're saying we want to mess up what has been a very delicate balance in the negotiations on this issue that have taken approximately four years and come to fruition in LB 595 as it sits on Select File. I think it would be a tragic mistake at this point to adopt Senator Schimek's amendment which basically takes us back to the fighting and the bludgeoning of these two institutions who themselves without us have worked this out. And I believe that it is the best possible solution we could have right now. I think as it was stated before, the people that are going to benefit are the people that need these